



Oregon's Public University and Community College Faculty, Students, and Staff Urge Lawmakers to Support Senate Bill 196

On Tuesday, members of AFT-Oregon, the Oregon Education Association, AAUP-Oregon, and Associated Oregon Faculties, [spoke to Oregon legislators](#) with a unified voice about the pressing need for access to affordable health care for part-time faculty and their families.

Over the last four decades, Oregon's public community college and university systems have significantly reduced full time faculty and become reliant on part time, contingent instructors. In Oregon, part-time faculty make up 70% or more of the total instructional staff at 12 of 17 community colleges. But despite working part-time at several different institutions, many part-time faculty are paid poorly and do not have access to affordable health insurance.

Senate Bill 196 is long overdue. It's time for Oregon to invest in a high quality, affordable higher education system that encourages student success. To get there, educators must have the tools and resources they need to provide the best possible education for students. That includes access to affordable health insurance. SB 196 would provide that access.

The outpouring of support for SB 196 from our members was overwhelming, forcing the committee to open up an overflow room for the hearing. In addition to the in-person testimony, [28 individuals submitted written testimony](#) in favor of the bill – a clear signal of how important this issue is to Oregon educators. We encourage all of our members to [click here to contact your lawmaker](#) and urge their support of the bill.

We want to thank Senator Dembrow for continuing to champion this issue and Senator Roblan and the Senate Education Committee for shining a light on the challenges that part time faculty face across Oregon. We also want to thank SEIU Local 503 and the Oregon Student Association for their support of this legislation. We look forward to continuing our work in 2017 and beyond to attract and retain quality educators and give them the tools and resources they need to provide a quality education.


David Rives
President, AFT-Oregon


Hanna Vaandering
President, Oregon Education Association


José Padín
President, AAUP-Oregon


Alan Bakalinsky
President, Association of Oregon Faculties